

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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Claim 1. (Cancelled.)

Claim 2. (Cancelled.)

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A method to provide copy protection for a content, the method comprising:

receiving an authorization code by a conditional access (CA) device ~~via a communication channel, the communication channel being one of a return path of a cable connection, a telephone connection, and a network;~~

generating a local key ~~from based on~~ a programmable user key ~~according to~~ using an authorization code provided by a content provider; and

descrambling the content delivered by the content provider using a local key.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3 further comprising receiving the user key from the content provider via the communication channel.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein the user key is provided by a master conditional access (CA) device having the authorization code.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3 wherein the user key is embedded in a medium embodying the content.

Claim 7. (Cancelled.)

Claim 8. (Cancelled.)

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A conditional access (CA) device comprising:  
a descrambler to descramble a content delivered by a content provider using a local key;  
a key generator coupled to the descrambler to generate the local key ~~from~~ based on a  
programmable user key according to and an authorization code provided by the content provider,  
the authorization code is used to control access to the user key by the key generator; and  
a communication interface coupled to the key generator to receive the authorization code  
via a communication channel, the communication channel being one of a return path of a cable  
connection, a telephone connection, and a network.

9  
Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The CA device of Claim 9 wherein the  
communication interface further receives the user key from the content provider via the  
communication channel.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The CA device of Claim 9 wherein the user key is  
provided by a master CA device having the authorization code.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The CA device of Claim 9 wherein the user key is  
embedded in a medium embodying the content.

Claim 13. (Cancelled.)

Claim 14. (Cancelled.)

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied therein to provide copy protection for a scrambled content, the computer program product having:

a first program code of a first conditional access (CA) device to descramble the content delivered by a content provider using a local key;

a second program code of the first CA device to generate the local key ~~from~~ based on a programmable user key ~~according to and~~ an authorization code provided by the content provider; and

a third program code of the first CA device to receive the authorization code ~~via a communication channel, the communication channel being one of a return path of a cable connection, a telephone connection, and a network.~~

D<sup>1</sup>  
Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 15 further comprising a fourth program code to receive the user key from the content provider via ~~the a~~ communication channel, the communication channel being one of a return path of a cable connection, a telephone connection, and a network.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 15 wherein the user key is provided by a master conditioned access (CA) device having the authorization code.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 15 wherein the user key is embedded in a medium embodying the content.

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Claim 19. (New) The method of Claim 3, wherein the authorization code is entered by the user.

D<sup>2</sup>  
Claim 20. (New) The method of Claim 3, wherein the authorization code is provided via a communication channel, the communication channel being a return path for one of a cable connection, a telephone connection and a network.

Claim 21. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein prior to generating the local key, the method further comprising:

transferring the user key from the master CA device to the conditioned access (CA) device if the authorization code grants a right to transfer the user key to the CA device.

Claim 22. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein the transfer of the user key occurs if an authorization code at the master CA device matches the authorization code.

2 Claim 23. (New) The CA device of Claim 9 being in communication with a second conditional access (CA) device, the key generator to transfer the user key to the second CA device if the authorization code grants a right to transfer the user key to the second CA device.

Claim 24. (New) The CA device of Claim 9, wherein the authorization code grants a user a right to duplicate the user key.

Claim 25. (New) The CA device of Claim 11, wherein the key generator is permitted access to the user key when the authorization code matches an authorization code stored at the master CA device.

Claim 26. (New) The computer program product of claim 15 further comprising a fourth program code to permit the user key to be transferred from the first CA device to a second CA device if the authorization code grants a right to duplicate the user key.

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